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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING.

STATES RELATIONS SERVICE, OFFICE OF
EXTENSION WORK, NORTH AND WEST,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.**PREPARATION FOR HOME CANNING CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS.**

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NUMBER OF MEETINGS A DAY.

In order to have the proper organization of material and enough energy to do the work well, arrange for but two meetings a day. If an illustrated lecture is desired for the evening, then arrange for only one canning demonstration, to be held either in the forenoon or afternoon. A little time is necessary for putting up and taking down equipment and for conferring with local leaders in regard to follow-up work after lectures and demonstrations.

HALLS, AUDITORIUMS, OR OTHER MEETING PLACES.

The character and convenience of the place in which canning demonstrations and lectures are held will determine, in a measure, the success of the meeting. A well-seated, well-lighted, and well-ventilated auditorium, with sufficient room not only for the tables and equipment in the demonstration, preferably on a raised platform, but for the people, so that all may be seated in comfort, is essential to the success of the work. Arrangements and rent for this place of meeting must be taken care of by the local people.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR CANNING DEMONSTRATIONS.

The demonstrator brings canning outfits, a limited number of small pans, and other incidental equipment.

The local people will need to furnish the following, put in position ready to use:

1. Two tables, covered with heavy, clean, white paper or oilcloth. One wash boiler, one water bucket, one new unused garbage bucket, a few paring knives, and wiping cloths.
2. One three-burner stove, or two stoves of the two-burner type. Do not get slow, inefficient heating arrangements. The first essential to a successful canning demonstration is sufficient heat. Have oil or other fuel ready.
3. *Products to be canned.*—The local people will be expected to furnish vegetables and fruits, which are fresh or as nearly so as it is possible to get them in small quantities. Do not bring a large quantity of any one thing—never more than what will fill successfully a 2-quart glass jar, with a little extra for good measure. If you are providing for a demonstration of two hours' duration, bring 6 products—2 fruits and 4 vegetables; if three hours, 10 products—4 fruits and 6 vegetables; if three and one-half or four hours, select 12 products. Do not select exceptions and novelties, but bring products that are representative of the surplus and by-products of the garden, field, and orchard. Select some of the things that the average housewife in the community considers difficult to can. Two able girls are necessary to assist in the canning demonstration.
4. *Other supplies required.*—The department demonstrator will bring tin cans and all can-sealing equipment. Where it is desired that the canned products of the demonstration be retained in the community, the local people should furnish a few glass jars of each type available through the stores of the community. Have an assortment of all sizes as well as all types. The object of the demonstration is to teach methods of canning and how to use all kinds of devices. Provide also 5 cents' worth of salt and about 50 cents' worth of sugar for each day's demonstration.
5. *Water supply needed.*—Arrangements should be made to have upon the platform, or near it, a supply of pure, clean water, so that little or no time will be wasted in getting it. In case it is necessary to carry the water from a distance, a man or able-bodied boy should be provided to replenish the supply.

6. *Other suggestions.*—Have the demonstration as scheduled, *rain or shine*. If your demonstration has been planned for a place where the weather will interfere, be prepared for an emergency. The demonstrator will be able to give to the community only the time as planned. The work in demonstration is very fatiguing, and the committee in charge should see that rest and quiet are afforded the demonstrator while “off duty.”

ARRANGEMENT FOR ILLUSTRATED LECTURE.

If an illustrated lecture is desired during the daytime, it will be necessary to provide a room that can be sufficiently darkened so that the front end of the building can not be seen from the rear when the lights are out and the window curtains lowered. It will be necessary also for the local people to furnish the lantern outfit and operator. One hundred nicely colored lantern slides will be used in the illustrated lecture. Unless otherwise arranged, the subject will be “Boys’ and Girls’ Club Work, and Educating for Life.” Where it is desired to specialize upon home canning and its related projects, the subject for the evening lecture can be “Turning Our Surplus Foods of Garden, Field, and Orchard into Net Profits and Better Health.”

CROWD GETTING FOR DEMONSTRATING AND ILLUSTRATED LECTURE.

Careful organization is always necessary for interesting the public in any new line of work. The first thing essential is to have a wide-awake committee appointed to take charge of the advertising work, a committee that will know how to have announcements made from the pulpits of the churches, from the public schools, and through the lodges, and how to get the services of the public press. Let them all understand that this work is not mercenary. The public demonstrator comes at the expense of the Federal Department of Agriculture and the State college of agriculture, to help the community. It is a matter of public service in which all are interested.

AFTER DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURE, THEN WHAT?

The object of this work in any community should clearly be to get results for the immediate future. During the day’s work and immediately following, the public-school people, the federated women’s clubs, the granges, the chambers of commerce, county agricultural agents, and all others should be interested definitely in putting the thing into operation. Local leaders should be selected wisely and carefully, who will agree to organize and promote this work in their immediate community, secure enrollment, organize the members into a local club, and in cooperation with the State and national leaders endeavor to show results within a reasonable length of time. The object of the work is not merely canning. It has relations and possibilities in the way of correlation and coordination too many to review at this time. It means better health, service to the family and the community, education in thrift, developing habits of economy, lessening doctor bills, and saving the surplus and by-products, or transforming them into net profits. It means encouraging, on a cooperative scale, the social life, the community spirit, the team work essential to a well-rounded community. All this can be started through this simple activity called “canning.”